

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## U.S. CHERISHES INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, OFFICIAL TELLS U.N. COMMITTEE

U.N. Human Rights Committee hearings continue in Geneva

By Carolee Walker  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The United States has confronted new challenges at home as it has sought to protect the public and respect individual rights in accordance with the Constitution and U.S. law, said Matthew Waxman, head of the U.S. delegation appearing before the U.N. Human Rights Committee in Geneva July 17. Waxman presented the U.S. report on its implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The United States overhauled its law enforcement efforts after the attacks in the United States by al-Qaida terrorists, Waxman said, and took critical measures to secure the country against further attacks. Congress revised U.S. laws to address new threats, and did so in a manner consistent with the Constitution and U.S. law, including the country's international treaty obligations, Waxman said.

"We cherish our vigorous democratic processes – which benefit from comprehensive freedoms of speech, assembly and the press – our strong and independent judicial system, and our well established body of constitutional, statutes and common law designed to protect civil and political rights," Waxman said. "People in the United States share a culture and history of challenging their government through judicial processes."

Waxman is principal deputy director of policy planning at the U.S. Department of State.

The Human Rights Committee, meeting July 17-18 in Geneva, reviews reports submitted by U.N. member states on their compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee, composed of 18 independent experts, is unrelated to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

As the United States works to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights at home, Waxman said, it continues to promote respect for human rights around the world. In 2006, the U.S. government will spend \$1.4 billion on programs and activities advancing democracy and human rights, Waxman said. Waxman told the committee he is aware of the "intense international interest about a wide range of issues relating to the actions of the United States outside of its territory." The law of armed conflict, or international humanitarian law, provides the legal framework regarding some of the questions raised by the committee, Waxman said. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, by its very terms, does not apply outside the territory of a state party, Waxman told the committee. "This has been the U.S. position for more than 55 years," he said. The United States is committed to upholding its covenant obligations, Waxman said, but he told the committee it is important that the United States state when those obligations apply.

"There are some issues that will come up in this defense that have to do with the war on terrorism and the United States conduct of it," said Mark Lagon, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for international organizations, at a roundtable discussion in Geneva on July 17. Such issues are beyond the scope of the treaty, Lagon added, as they are outside the territory of the United States or belong to the law of war rather than human rights law. "Nonetheless, the United States will answer those controversial questions as a courtesy to the committee, and importantly, as a matter of openness in the international community."

#### DETAINEE ISSUES

In response to questions regarding U.S. treatment of detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the State Department's Sandra Hodgkinson, deputy director for the Office of War Crimes Issues, said at the roundtable that it is U.S. policy to transfer or release as many people as possible from Guantanamo Bay. "We do not want to

detain anyone any longer than is necessary there," she said. Although the Supreme Court recently addressed the detainee issue, Hodgkinson said it has always been U.S. policy to provide humane treatment to detainees held at Guantanamo Bay.

"The fact that detainees have decided to take their lives is tragic when it occurs and we regret that, but that has nothing to do with the treatment they have received there at Guantanamo Bay. They're treated humanely," Hodgkinson said.

"As citizens of the United States, we have much to be proud of in our civil rights achievements at home and our efforts in promoting human rights abroad," Waxman said. "We also recognize that along with the role the United States plays in the international system come continuing – indeed, never-ending – responsibilities."

#### U.S., RUSSIA UNITE AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPREAD

State's Joseph says terrorists with nuclear weapons "greatest threat of our time"

By David McKeeby  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The United States and Russia are joining forces to lead a new global coalition to detect and defeat the most serious national security threat facing the world today: nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists, says a top U.S. official.

In a July 18 speech sponsored by National Defense University, Robert Joseph, under secretary of state for arms control and international security, provided an overview of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism – a new effort unveiled by President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin in a bilateral meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, prior to the July 15-17 G8 summit. In the post-9/11 world, Joseph said, terrorist organizations such as al-Qaida have declared their intent to acquire nuclear weapons; state sponsors of terrorism, such as Iran and North Korea, have continued to pursue covert weapons programs in violation of international nonproliferation regimes; and nonstate entities, such as A.Q. Kahn, have worked to sell weapons of mass destruction

(WMD) technologies on the international black market. The convergence of these factors, he said, along with the technological advances of a globalizing world “makes nuclear terrorism both the most serious international security challenge of our time, and the most urgent.”

“To be wrong once is to have lost one of our cities,” he said. “We do not have a second chance; we must take steps now to avert that dark future.”

In recent years, diplomatic efforts have converged on the threat from numerous directions, Joseph said. Among them:

- Adoption of consensus agreements within the United Nations, such as the Nuclear Terrorism Convention and Security Council resolutions 1540 and 1373, which require members’ to take concrete action to prevent terrorist acquisition of WMD;
- Programs that build security cooperation among militaries and law enforcement agencies to increase interception of illicit shipments of dangerous materials;
- Intelligence-gathering initiatives that monitor terrorist financial transactions and transmissions through the Internet; and
- Installation of detection equipment throughout global shipping networks.

But, Joseph said, “The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism is the first initiative of its kind, one that takes a comprehensive approach to dealing with all elements of the challenge.”

By bringing together these previous partnerships and then building on their success, the initiative aims to “to establish a growing network of partner nations that are committed to taking effective measures to build a layered defense-in-depth that can continuously adapt to the changing nature of the threat.”

With the United Nation’s International Atomic Energy Agency acting as an observer, the initiative calls on participants to:

- Improve accounting, controls, and protection of nuclear materials and facilities;
- Detect and suppress illicit activities involving weapons materials;

- Respond to the consequences of acts of nuclear terrorism;

- Promote cooperation in the development of new technologies to combat nuclear terrorism;

- Ensure that law enforcement groups take all possible measures to deny safe haven to terrorists seeking to acquire or use nuclear materials; and

- Strengthen participants’ national legal frameworks so that, if apprehended, terrorists and other facilitators of nuclear terrorism can be prosecuted effectively and punished.

“In bringing to bear all instruments of national power against this threat,” Joseph said, “the initiative will bring diplomats together with first responders, forensic and technical experts, law enforcement officers, the military, and others in the public and private sectors who shape the present and future risks of nuclear terrorism.” The United States and Russia have invited several potential partner nations as well as the IAEA to attend an initial meeting later this year to further develop the initiative and to sign a statement of principles.

“The Global Initiative will not only reinforce our national efforts, but it signals to all participating nations the importance of developing comprehensive approaches to combat the threat of WMD terrorism,” Joseph said.

## U.S. NAVY SHIP MERCY RETURNS TO INDONESIA ON AID MISSION

Hospital ship will provides medical attention, construction assistance

By Cassie Duong  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Navy ship (USNS) Mercy has returned to Indonesia to provide assistance with construction projects and medical care, arriving near Simeulue Island off the west coast of Aceh Province July 12.

“The Mercy’s return to Indonesia exemplifies the strong ties between the United States and Indonesia and the U.S. commitment to partner with Indonesia in address-

ing humanitarian concerns and civic needs,” the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta said in a press release issued July 13. The current mission builds upon the previous successful deployment of the Mercy to the region in the aftermath of the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami, when 107,000 patients were treated by crewmembers, the press release said.

Mercy’s crew can provide a wide variety of medical services including optometry screenings, eyewear distribution, physical therapy, radiological and laboratory services, dermatology, urology, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, plastic surgery, basic medical evaluation and treatment, dental screenings and treatment, immunizations, public health training and assessment, vector control (monitoring animals and insects that spread disease) and veterinary services.

Indonesia is the third stop on the hospital ship’s current mission, which is scheduled to run five months. Deploying from its home port of San Diego, April 24, Mercy arrived in the Philippines May 20, where the crew trained more than 700 local professionals and performed medical operations on more than 300 people during its monthlong stay.

While in the Philippines, Mercy also deployed personnel to provide assistance to Indonesia after a powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia’s Yogyakarta and Central Java provinces on the island of Java May 27.

The Mercy also traveled to Bangladesh July 1-8, where the crew made repairs to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital and, in conjunction with the nongovernmental organization Operation Smile, performed corrective cleft lip and palate surgeries on 60 patients. As they did during previous stops, Mercy’s team of healthcare providers will conduct medical, dental and civic action programs both onshore and at sea while in Indonesia.

Crew members prepare to transport a patient to the U.S. hospital ship Mercy for treatment. Mercy is currently in Indonesia as part of a five-month mission to provide medical care in several South Asian countries.

In addition, the crew will work with Indonesian medical schools, hospitals and public health programs to provide training that will have long-term benefits for the participants and their communities, the embassy press release said.

“We’ll get to see people who wouldn’t otherwise get to

see the doc so easily,” Lieutenant Steven Santoyo, a family practice doctor, said in a July 12 press release from the U.S. Pacific Fleet. “It may be anywhere from colds and flu to infections and urgent problems. We’re looking forward to it [being able to help these people in remote areas].”

Volunteers from Aloha Medical Mission, Project Hope and the University of California at San Diego Pre-Dental Society are among the members of the Mercy team, along with medical specialists from the Indian, Singaporean and Canadian militaries.

A small team of sailors from the Naval Construction Force (Seabees) also is traveling with the ship to carry out repairs and minor construction projects in Indonesia.

The Indonesian military, non-governmental organizations and local medical care professionals will work alongside the Mercy’s crew while the ship is in the country.

“It is important that we do everything we can to show our commitment to the nongovernmental organizations we will work with. They are able to open doors for us and provide insight in places that we in the military might not know,” Captain Bradley D. Martin, Mercy’s mission commander, said in the Pacific Fleet’s press release.

After their mission in Indonesia, the Mercy is scheduled to travel to East Timor.

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## PARTNERSHIP ALLOWS AFRICANS TO PLOT THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT

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United States fully supports NEPAD framework, says official at Sullivan Summit

By Charles Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Abuja, Nigeria -- What is most important about the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is that it empowers Africans to formulate their own development vision and strategy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield said July 18.

Speaking at the Leon H. Sullivan VII Summit in Abuja, Thomas-Greenfield said that U.S. policy in Africa is built on two major pillars: support of good governance through democratic and fair elections and the promotion of economic growth and trade.

“We see NEPAD as supporting that vision in Africa, but what is more important about NEPAD, is that it puts Africans in the ‘driver’s seat.’ They are the ones that develop the strategy, develop the vision and, with NEPAD, develop an integrated approach that will help them” solve their own economic and development problems in their own way, she said.

NEPAD is a strategic framework for Africa’s development that arose from a mandate given to five African nations (Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa) by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and formally adopted at the organization’s 37th summit in July 2001. It seeks to eradicate poverty, stimulate sustainable development, halt the marginalization of Africa in the global economy, and accelerate the empowerment of women.

NEPAD helps countries like the United States fine tune their development approach toward Africa, said Thomas-Greenfield. “NEPAD is not viewed by us as an implementing agency or a recipient of aid. It is viewed as an organ that will lead African countries to ... prominence” through greater economic development, she added. Echoing Thomas-Greenfield’s remarks on NEPAD was Abdelkader Messahel, Algeria’s minister of cooperation, who stressed that NEPAD is built on a foundation of partnership.

Messahel, whose remarks were translated from French into English, said NEPAD is built on three distinct levels of partnership: national partnership that seeks to incorporate all the citizens in each African government; inter-African partnership that seeks to promote regional and sub-regional development projects such as roads; and international partnership with developed nations like the United States.

Africans, Messahel said, want to plot their own development strategies and NEPAD empowers them to do just that. Africans, he added, also want to promote unity, stability, democracy and good governance, which he identified as a major component of NEPAD.

He said more than 40 countries across Africa are embracing democratic forms of government and many of

the same countries are now enjoying a 5 percent annual economic growth rate -- which he directly attributed to good governance.

“Africa has a future and potential to develop and that is why we have NEPAD, which is a synergistic approach to development,” he told the delegates.

A third speaker on NEPAD, Nenadi Esther Usman, the Nigerian minister of finance, linked Africa’s development to its ability to attract investment capital, in terms both of money and skilled people who are technologically savvy and who can develop growing private sector economies in African countries.

“This is the only vital way to create jobs and wealth, thereby helping us to fight poverty,” Usman said. “The paucity of capital, technology and human skills has rendered Africa unable to effectively fight poverty and underdevelopment,” she added.

Africa’s challenge, continued Usman, is to raise the level of private investment to promote development, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, technology and human resources. “The growth of private enterprise can only be sustained if African countries encourage competition... and promote public-private partnerships,” she said.

One key ingredient to economic growth, she said, is competition. For example, opening Nigeria’s telecom sector to competition, she said, has greatly aided the country and helped fuel economic growth. In 2000 Nigeria only had 500,000 telephone numbers or lines. Today, said Usman, thanks to the liberalization of the telecom sector there are 16 million functioning telephone numbers and Nigerians enjoy excellent cell phone service.

But during the question and answer session, a Nigerian delegate pointed out that many Nigerians cannot afford to purchase more minutes on their phones.

“The government cannot buy recharge cards,” for people, Usman told him. “The government can only create an enabling environment that allows people to work” so they can earn the money to recharge their telephones. She said it is the government’s job “to shrink,” and thus allow the private sector to flourish.

The Leon H. Sullivan VII Summit, which has as its theme “Africa: A Continent of Opportunities; Building Partnerships for Success” runs through July 20.

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